CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for monitoring a patient, comprising:

2   generating a robot movement input command at a remote

3 station;

4   transmitting the robot movement input command;

5   receiving the robot movement input command at a robot

6 that has a camera and a microphone;

7   moving the robot to view and hear a patient; and,

8   transmitting an image of the patient and a sound of the

9 patient from the robot to the remote station.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the robot moves

2 across a floor of a medical facility.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the robot movement

2 input command is generated by a doctor.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, further comprising

2 transmitting a video image and a sound of a doctor at the

3 remote station to the robot, the video image being

4 displayed by a monitor of the robot, the sound being

5 generated by a speaker of the robot.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the robot movement

2 input command causes the robot camera to zoom relative to

3 the patient.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, further comprising

2 transmitting a video image of a medical chart from the

3 robot to the remote station.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, further comprising

2 generating and transmitting a question from the remote

3 station to the robot.

1   8.   The method of claim 7, wherein the question is

2 generated by a speaker of the robot.

1   9.   The method of claim 7, wherein the question is

2 displayed by a monitor of the robot.

1   10. The method of claim 1, wherein the robot movement

2 input command is transmitted through a broadband network.

1   11. A method for monitoring a patient, comprising:

2   generating a plurality of robot movement input commands

3   at a remote station;

4   transmitting the robot movement input commands;

5   receiving the robot movement input commands at a robot

6   that has a camera and a microphone;

7   moving the robot from a first patient room to a second

8   patient room of a medical facility; and,

9   transmitting an image of a patient and a sound of the

10   patient from the robot to the remote station.

1   12. The method of claim 11, wherein the robot movement

2   input command is generated by a doctor.

1   13. The method of claim 11, further comprising

2   transmitting a video image and a sound of a doctor at the

3   remote station to the robot, the video image being

4   displayed by a monitor of the robot, the sound being

5   generated by a speaker of the robot.

1   14. The method of claim 11, wherein the robot movement

2   input command causes the robot camera to zoom relative to

3   the patient.

1   15. The method of claim 11, further comprising

2   transmitting a video image of a medical chart from the

3   robot to the remote station.

1   16. The method of claim 11, further comprising

2   generating and transmitting a question from the remote

3   station to the robot.

1   17. The method of claim 16, wherein the question is

2   generated by a speaker of the robot.

1   18. The method of claim 16, wherein the question is

2   displayed by a monitor of the robot.

1   19. The method of claim 11, wherein the robot movement

2   input command is transmitted through a broadband network.